

**Board of Selectmen's Work Session
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2008
Ashland Town Office
10:00 AM**

Present: Chairman Glenn Dion, Jeanette I. Stewart, Leigh Sharps, Beth Bartlett, Brad Ober, Bob Boyle, Kendall L. Hughes, Ernest Paquette, Chief Chivell, Patsy Tucker, Mark Ober, Jim Gleich

Chairman Dion called the meeting to order at 10 AM.

This meeting is to discuss the 2008 Budget.

Electric Commissioner Hughes said that if they cut their budget it doesn't affect the taxes. He said if they cut it and need more, they will go to the Budget Committee and then to the State in Concord. Chairman Dion said it doesn't affect the taxes with the town budget either.

It was suggested that \$43,000 be removed out of Electric Department and Town budgets for street lighting. It would lower the overall budget by \$86,000.

Some of the suggestions to change the budget are:

- Delaying pay raises until 7/1/08. The raises are in the budget now for 4.6% and it was discussed that raises could be cut to 2.5% for union and non-union employees.
- Revaluation is a contracted amount
- Suggest to change cleaning to bi-weekly or go out for bid again
- Brad Ober suggested that all departments buy office supplies together

- Selectman Bartlett suggested to cut the Police salary budget by \$100,000.
- Cut Jen Correia's time from 2 days to 1-1/2 days
- Cuts to the hours of lifeguards. Mr. Gleich will re-calculate the budget for fewer hours.
- That Mr. Alpers send a letter to the agencies on the "Donation List" saying that there is a possibility that the allocation from Ashland may not be funded.

Selectman Bartlett made a motion to allow Mark Ober to hire a part-time employee (16 hours) for the Transfer Station. Motion seconded by Selectman Sharps. **Roll Call: GD – Aye, LS – Aye, JS – Aye, BB - Aye.**

Ms. Tucker said that she and Selectman Stewart would see if the Ashland Woman's Club would help to pay for the speed bumps for Leavitt Hill at the beach.

Various other adjustments were suggested.

Chairman Dion will get all the budget figures to Jen Correia to redo the budget. Cuts will actually be made after the vote on 3/11/08.

Adjournment –Selectman Stewart made motion to adjourn at 12:45 PM. Selectman Bartlett seconded. **Roll Call: GD – Aye, LS – Aye, JS – Aye, BB - Aye.**

Approved by the Board of Selectmen:

Glenn R. Dion

Daniel P. Golden

Beth G. Bartlett

Jeanette I. Stewart

Leigh Sharps

Date

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Crowell
2/28/08